

CLAIMS

1. An image printing and reading apparatus comprising:

- 5 a printing unit to print an image on a print sheet conveyed through a print sheet path;
- a reading unit to read a document conveyed through a document path, having a common part belonging to said print sheet path and said document path;
- 10 a reference white board for shading correction used by said reading unit upon execution of prescanning; and
- a moving unit to move said reading unit and said reference white board to a document reading position
- 15 when said reading unit executes document reading, on the other hand, to move said reading unit and said reference white board to a retreat position in which the influence of ambient light is reduced at least upon execution of prescanning.

20

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said retreat position is a position within a casing of said image printing and reading apparatus and away from said document reading position.

25

3. An image printing and reading apparatus comprising:

a printing unit to print an image on a print sheet conveyed through a print sheet path;

a reading unit to read a document conveyed through a document path, having a common part belonging
5 to said print sheet path and said document path;

a reference white board for shading correction used by said reading unit upon execution of prescanning; and

a moving unit to move said reading unit and said
10 reference white board to a document reading position when said reading unit executes document reading, on the other hand, to move said reading unit and said reference white board in a direction deviated from a color material discharging direction at least when said
15 printing unit executes printing.

4. The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said moving unit moves said reading unit and said reference white board in a direction opposite to a color material
20 discharging direction when said printing unit executes printing.

5. The apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising a detection unit to detect
25 occurrence of jam in the common path belonging to said print sheet path and said document path,

wherein if said detection unit has not detected

the occurrence of jam, said reading unit executes the prescanning.

6. A prescanning method in an image printing and
5 reading apparatus including: a printing unit to print
an image on a print sheet conveyed through a print
sheet path; a reading unit to read a document conveyed
through a document path, having a common part belonging
to said print sheet path and said document path; and a
10 reference white board for shading correction used by
said reading unit upon execution of prescanning, said
method comprising:

a step of moving said reading unit and said
reference white board to a document reading position
15 when said reading unit executes document reading, on
the other hand, to move said reading unit and said
reference white board to a retreat position in which
the influence of ambient light is reduced at least upon
execution of prescanning; and

20 a step of executing the prescanning when said
reading unit and said reference white board are in said
retreat position.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the
25 retreat position is a position within a casing of said
image printing and reading apparatus and away from said
document reading position.

8. A prescanning method in an image printing and reading apparatus including: a printing unit to print an image on a print sheet conveyed through a print
5 sheet path; a reading unit to read a document conveyed through a document path, having a common part belonging to said print sheet path and said document path; a reference white board for shading correction used by said reading unit upon execution of prescanning, said
10 method comprising:

a step of moving said reading unit and said reference white board to a document reading position when said reading unit executes document reading, on the other hand, moving said reading unit and said
15 reference white board in a direction deviated from a color material discharging direction at least when said printing unit executes printing; and

a step of performing the prescanning when said reading unit and said reference white board are in said
20 retreat position.

9. The method according to any one of claims 6 to 8, further comprising a step of detecting occurrence of jam in the common path belonging to said print sheet
25 path and said document path,

wherein if the occurrence of jam has not been detected, the prescanning is executed.